

✓ Laos
cc: S.G.S.

We have attempted without particular success to determine the number of DOD personnel required to pay irregulars in Laos, should we be faced with that contingency. Given the virtual certainty that relief from certain audit criteria would be required if we were to assume the task of paying irregulars in Laos, we can make an accurate estimate of the number of DOD personnel required for the task only given specific assumptions regarding the waiver of audit criteria. The figure could vary from none to over a hundred. Our misgivings, as you know, concern less the number of personnel added to the U.S. complement in Laos and more the diminished confidence between CIA field personnel and irregulars should the CIA cease paying. As long as the CIA has operational control, we feel it must also pay.

We ask that you understand the difficulties in presenting an apparent measure of comparability between CIA and DOD in performing this task when the substitution cannot be made short of other large scale changes in the way the Executive has chosen to seek the U.S. objectives in Laos.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

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